(a) whether the Supreme Court has made a suggestion to Government to make such a provision which would make it mandatory for all male Government employees to furnish a statement on whether they have accepted dowry and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would make any such provision for the common people also so that the evil practice of dowry may be eradicated;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. In the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 2nd May, 2005 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 499 of 1997. Union of India and the State Governments were directed to consider whether appropriate rules cannot be framed for compelling males, seeking government employment, to furnish information on whether they had taken dowry and if taken, whether the same has been made over to the wife as contemplated by section 6 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and for calling for such information also from those already in employment.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Government does not contemplate making any such provision for the common man other than those already included in the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. As per the Act, giving, demanding or taking of dowry are punishable offences. The Dowry Prohibition (Maintenance of Lists of Presents to the Bride and Bridegroom) Rules, 1985 have also been notified.

Metro Rail Services

*15. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to make metro rail a part of the public transport system for all major cities having a population of over 50 lakhs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including an outline of the plan if any, drawn up, for execution over the next ten years, the States which have opted for and the cities identified for creating the metro infrastructure and the pattern of funding evolved therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Urban Transport being a State subject, it is for the State governments to formulate appropriate proposals for public transport systems in their cities. Under the proposed National Urban Transport Policy Government of India would encourage all large cities to develop city-specific plans for mass transit systems, using such technologies as are appropriate, keeping in view the likely demand and other techno-economic factors. Government would offer financial support in the form of equity or viability gap funding, subject to fulfilment of specified conditions.

Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi already have rail based mass transit systems. Proposals have been received for expansion of the system in Mumbai and Delhi. A proposal has also been received for a rail based mass transit system for Bangalore.

National Urban Renewal Mission

*16. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Urban Renewal Mission, covering seven mega cities, 30 smaller cities and other important urban centres, would give a major boost to social housing and encourage the States to address the issues of repeal of the Urban Land Ceiling Act, the Rent Control Act and reduction in rates of stamp duty;

(b) if so, whether this proposal has been submitted to Government for its approval;

(c) if so, to what extent these proposals have given a boost to housing in the country; and

(d) whether National Urban Renewal Mission has been one of the most important features of development of these proposed cities?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) One of the objectives of National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) covering 60 cities is to promote integrated development of slums through provision of shelter, basic services and other civic amenities with a view to providing utilities to urban poor. Grant of financial assistance for